



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Gentaro Okayasu, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/492,044  
For : FREE STORAGE SPACE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS  
AND METHOD  
Filed : January 26, 2000  
Examiner : Hwang, Joon H.  
Art Unit : 2162

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**AMENDMENT SUBMITTED WITH  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on June 30, 2005, having a three-month  
statutory period for response set to expire on September 30, 2005, Applicants submit herewith a  
Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Please amend the above-identified application as  
follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.